

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 12, 21-23, and 25-27 are pending in this application.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 21, 25, and 26, have canceled claims 3, 4, 9, and 10, and have added new claim 27. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephonic interview conducted on July 31, 2003. Applicants concur with the substance of the interview set forth in the Interview Summary formed attached to the Office Action.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-12, 21-23, and 25. Applicants have canceled certain of the allowed claims, namely dependent claims 3, 4, 9, and 10, because they relate to embodiments that do not require V-shaped or U-shaped drain holes in the base as specified in the applicable independent claims, namely independent claims 1 and 7. Applicants have amended claims 5, 6, 9, and 10 so that these dependent claims define features applicable to embodiments that include V-shaped drain holes. In addition, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 12, 21, and 25 to delete the terms "substantially" and "about" because these terms may be alleged to render the claims indefinite.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Davis* (U.S. Patent No. 5,985,031). As will be explained below, the *Davis* reference does not disclose each and every feature of claim 26, as amended herein.

In support of the anticipation rejection, the Examiner asserts that the notched leakage paths in the spin bowl of *Davis* (see item 36 in Figure 3) constitute "V-shaped drain holes" as specified in claim 26. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's characterization of the *Davis* reference relative to claim 26 for two reasons. First, the notched leakage paths shown by *Davis* are not V-shaped, but rather are L-shaped (note that the legs of notched leakage path

36 shown in Figure 3 are at right angles to one another). Second, the notched leakage paths shown by *Davis* are not situated "proximate to the sidewall" as claimed. As shown in Figure 3, notched leakage path 36 is much closer to chuck 14, which is disposed in the center of the apparatus, than it is to side 22. As such, Applicants submit that the *Davis* reference cannot reasonably be considered to disclose drain holes that are located "proximate to the sidewall" as specified in claim 26.

To further distinguish the spin bowl defined in claim 26 from that shown by *Davis*, Applicants have amended claim 26 to specify that "each of the plurality of V-shaped drain holes has a leg that is oriented at an angle in a range of 30 degrees to 60 degrees relative to the horizontal plane defined by the upper portion of the base." In contrast, notched leakage path 36 shown in Figure 3 of the *Davis* reference has a leg that is oriented at 90 degrees relative to the horizontal plane defined by chuck 14.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, the *Davis* reference does not disclose each and every feature of claim 26, as amended herein. Accordingly, claim 26 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Davis*.

New claim 27, which depends from claim 26, specifies that each of the plurality of V-shaped drain holes has a leg that is oriented at an angle of 45 degrees relative to the horizontal plane defined by the upper portion of the base. Claim 27 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Davis* for at least the same reasons set forth above regarding claim 26.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of claim 26, as amended herein, as well as examination of new claim 27, and submit that these claims, together with allowed claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, 12, 21-23, and 25, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 749-6902. If any additional fees are due in

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connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. NOVEP005).

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE & PENILLA, L.L.P.



Peter B. Martine
Reg. No. 32,043

710 Lakeway Drive, Suite 170
Sunnyvale, California 94085
(408) 749-6900
Customer Number 25920